

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes, we have, I believe, five tracks, and in addition, we have several quarter horse tracks, and five thoroughbred tracks, and about four quarter horse tracks, and as far as I know, they would be allowed to do simulcasting.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, thank you. That is the way I understand it, too. I was also wondering, now the simulcasting would...amount of money bet on simulcasting would be at the same rate as what we have on the regular tracks now?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: No, the rules and regulations pertaining to the actual wagers and the amount of return to the bettors would be the same for the simulcast as it would be for regular tracks, but I also understand that any track that wants to engage in simulcasting has to enter into a contract with the track where the race is being effected. Thus, if we wanted to simulcast the Kentucky Derby, we would have to enter into a contract with the Kentucky Derby people, and those contracts may call for some different rates. So there may ultimately have to be some more implementing legislation along the way, but at this point I think that our general statutes would apply to the type of return to the bettors, and so forth.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, and as I understand it, this would probably go through the State Racing Commission.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Right.

SENATOR HEFNER: And they would promulgate the rules and regs on it?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Right.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, thank you, Senator Johnson. In regards to off-track betting, I guess I would have to oppose the bill if that was added because several years ago we did have a bill that would allow that, and at that time, we felt that we would lose some control over the gambling and horse racing, and so I think this bill is in good shape now, and so I would urge you to support it just as it is. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Nelson, please, and then Senator Morehead.